

**Interview with Vivian and David Smith
Conducted by Mia Gardiner for the
Providence District History Project Providence Perspective**

April 14, 2008

Mia Gardner: It is April 14, 2008 and I am interviewing Vivian Smith for the Providence District History book I am Mia Gardner and we have the pleasure of also having Dave Smith with us, Vivian's husband and let's start the interview Vivian with you telling me a little about your background. You were not born in the Providence District but you have been here since?

Vivian: Yes, since 1954.

Mia: That's quite a while.

Vivian: Yes, Dave and I were both mid-westerners but from different parts of the mid-west. I am from Ohio and Dave is from Nebraska and we met of course during World War Two like everybody did during our generation. And Dave was a Navy pilot and when he got out of the Navy he was recalled for several more years when he got out he decided well I have about seven and a half or so active duty years of active duty so I might as well work for the Navy Department. He said you'll like the climate in Washington. It's a nice mild climate but he didn't know about the summer humidity so we ended up in the Washington, D.C., area in 1954.

Mia: Did you come straight to Holmes Run Acres, which is the neighborhood we both live in?

Vivian: Actually we rented a place in Maryland, Cheverly Maryland for about six weeks and then looked around. We decided Virginia was much greener and more open space here, so we came to Virginia.

Mia: And when you came here it was open space?

Vivian: It was open space. This was really rural here. It was a little country road crossing almost. And it was paved of course, but I understand a little bit that it wasn't too many years before that the roads were still dirt and unpaved some of them. But it was really the trees that were arched over the road and it was just dense trees to get to Holmes Run Acres where we live.

Mia: What made you choose this neighborhood?

Vivian: We kept saying we wanted ramblers which I pictured as rather long, low houses and they took me to small brick houses.

Dave: Colonials

Vivian: Colonials and we were driving along Arlington Blvd., and I saw these houses at night with the lights and the big windows and I said I want a house like that. And he said (the agent) oh you want a Contemporary. He then said we have a new development so he took us to Holmes Run Acres and that's how we ended up here near Annandale.

Mia: I am certainly glad you ended up here.

Vivian: I am too.

Mia: Vivian you have basically been the neighborhood historian for decades now and before we get into the history of Providence District just tell me a little bit about what you have here as the neighborhood historian. You have a whole room full of wonderful memories wonderful history of our neighborhood; tell us a little bit about what's in that room.

Vivian: Oh that, I sort of fell into that job and now I am in it because I am an old memory chief here. But actually it was Sarah Lahr who suggested one night that we ought to keep a scrap book. And another woman named Florence Strickler kept a scrap book for the first 10th anniversary of our neighborhood. The neighborhood started in 1951 so in 1961 she put this scrapbook together and then added to it as time went on and for the 25th anniversary we realized that these things were going astray. People would borrow them and they wouldn't

return them and nobody knew who was in charge so that's when we decided we needed a historian - somebody that would keep track of these things. And since then all these things that people have that relate to this area that they think might be of interest come into my rec room and that's a problem - now I have to figure out what to do with all of these things. But there a lot of, besides the files here, there are a lot of information about the social life in the area because our Holmes Runners for example cover not just the meetings and the routine information. But there have been a lot of creative writings, people telling about their backgrounds, children's art, poems, creative stories so you get a picture of the kind of people who lived here. And those are all bound in the Virginia Room in Fairfax County because when we were doing our 25 year history I called Nan Netherton who is very active in history in the County and wrote the Fairfax County History - a book about it early on; and I asked her is there any use for any of these old "Runners" and she said Oh, I'm so glad that we have some pack rats around. And she told us to bring them all in and they would bind them and they have been doing that and our Runners are all up to date. And I have seen them on the shelves and it's quite impressive to see that many of them. I think there is one last issue missing but they are up to date.

Mia: The Runner has been in constant publication now for 57 years.

Vivian: All by volunteers.

Mia: All by volunteers, I think it's probably the longest constantly published neighborhood newsletter that exists; and it's not very small, it runs between 30 and 40 pages.

Vivian: And Mia should know – Mia was editor.

Mia: (Laughing) Exactly. Vivian has contributed a lot to the Runner over the years. Well, let's expand outside of our neighborhood now and get to Providence District around us. I don't mean to avoid our neighborhood because you have been so much a part of that history but talk a little about what it was like around the neighborhood when you first moved here.

Vivian: Okay, first of all I want to start about being on Gallows Road and that is the first thing that we wondered about like everyone else why it is named Gallows Road? And that's the first question that people ask me when they find out that I am the unofficial historian.

Mia: I think its official.

Vivian: Well I don't have a background as a professional historian. But the story has never been pinned down and I would really like to pin those stories down because I've talked to historians about various places around here and they all say that it is all oral history. I am sure that there is some basis for that name and I have asked a lot of neighbors and some people vaguely remember seeing an old tree out there that was called the Gallows Tree. One neighbor, I think you are going to interview her later she remembers a particular tree out toward the end of Gallows Road down towards Tyson's Corner. And she points out they use to take their kids out there and show them this tree. And she points out there are still several courts out there, there is a, Gallows Tree Court and Gallows Tree Lane. They got their names from someplace but nobody knows officially how it was so. And another woman says she knew an African American man around here who told her that there was a hanging tree across from Merrifield and that was used for lynching, unfortunately. But, so there are all these stories floating around and I am as curious as anybody else to know what the actual truth is.

Mia: We might be able to put a book together about all the various stories by the time we finish all these interviews.

Vivian: Legends. Walnut Hill was here then too, this beautiful big old estate on Gallows Road; I think it is in the Providence District actually. It was a huge house that was built by the

Dave: Arnold, Arnold Bus Company

Vivian: Arnold Bus Company, and there were - we use to use it for parties and the kids would sleigh ride. They were very nice people there and they would

let the kids sleigh ride down the hill and they had a lodge behind there that they let the neighborhood use for parties at that time. We also used the Grange Hall for neighborhood parties. The church is now the Vietnamese Church, (Korean as corrected by Mia) Korean on the corner of Annandale Road and what's the little road that cuts through? It's a cut through between Gallows and Hummer. And there's a cut through that you can cut through on to?

Mia: I know it's a short cut I have taken a million times but I don't think I ever knew the name of that cut through.

Vivian: It probably doesn't have a name.

Mia: Don't know the name.

Vivian: Anyway, I was going to say that it was the Grange Hall that was right there and I am quite sure some of the old timers would have more memories about the Grange. I tried to find out more about the memories and pictures. We have a few pictures but they weren't very clear. Nobody really thought that the Granges were very unusual and they didn't bother to you know write much history about that particular Grange.

Mia: Well, I think you mentioned the 25th history the 25th Anniversary of our neighborhood. We also put out a publication on the history of our neighborhood and the surrounding area including Providence District for the 25th, 40th and 50th anniversary and I think there is actually a chapter in one of those books on the Grange.

Vivian: There was an interview that some of the local people. That was one thing when we came here there were a lot of people around who had lived here for a long time and did have very concrete memories of earlier times.

Mia: Weren't there dances there?

Vivian: There were dances there, we had some parties there and there was a co-op school. One of our kids went to a co-op School the Annandale Co-Op School which is now out on Rt. 236.

Mia: That was in the Grange?

Vivian: Yes, it was in the Grange one year and so there are a lot of memories that people have of the Grange.

Mia: What about schools in general? You mentioned the pre-school up there, where did your kids go to school? There was no Kindergarten.

Vivian: No kindergarten and they started at the Co-Op School. Friendship Methodist had a kindergarten so one of our children went there. The Woodburn was a new School. They were having trouble keeping up with building the schools, I am sure you talked to more people about the schools. But I remember that Woodburn was a brand new school at that time and I remember that they had trouble keeping up with everything so the PTA had all kinds of fundraisers and Spaghetti dinners and book fairs to raise money to get more books for the libraries and I told stories sometimes for the kids. I use to do storytelling to children when I was in my younger days and that was always fun.

David: They also had to purchase paper towels and clocks we did fundraisers for that.

Vivian: Yes they had to do a lot of things.

Mia: The neighborhood really basically had to supply all the extras to the school.

Vivian: Oh actually the cafeteria at that time did cook. The cooking was done right there for the children. And I remember our son Doug coming home and saying oh they had the best cake, or they had the best salad dressing so I wrote to the cooks over there and asked them for the recipes, so I have several recipes for a cake for 600 people, and salad dressing for 600. I cut them down but they weren't as good as they did over there.

And the shopping around here was interesting too because when we came here there weren't many places to shop. Annandale had a Safeway and one grocery store a Safeway and a little Variety store and what else Dave.

Dave: There was a Jumbo.

Vivian: No, that was later. Safeway was the only grocery store for a long time and a 5 and 10 cent Store.

Mia: That was in 1950?

Dave: (Dave was interjecting some information on the stores) and Annandale Bank was bought out by several iteration of banks and now it is BB&T but it had a whole bunch of different names.

Vivian: Which most of the time you had to drive someplace to do your shopping. The closest stores really to look for clothes were Penney's and Hecht's in Clarendon and really it was a jaunt to pack the kids in the car and drive down there. Seven Corners was not in existence yet and I remember hearing Arthur Godfrey and that was a really big deal. I remember Arthur Godfrey on the radio one time.

(Phones were ringing)

I was talking about Arthur Godfrey, I remember hearing him on the radio I was a big Arthur Godfrey fan, and we all were. Arthur Godfrey said you know I had a chance to buy some land outside of Washington, D.C., it was a place called Buffalo Hills where seven roads came together a little country roads he said. That turned out to be Seven Corners Shopping Center and I have been kicking myself for not buying that land I could have been really rich he said. So Seven Corners was a real improvement for us that did not have to drive all the way down to Clarendon.

Musical background here.

(Phones ringing again)

Mia: I'm sorry about that interruption I think we have turned all the telephones around off now. Vivian – just in case the telephone interrupted would you tell the Arthur Godfrey story again please?

Vivian: Okay, I heard Arthur Godfrey talking shortly after Seven Corners had been built. And we were all flooding over there that was a treat to have Garfinckel's and Woodward and Lothrop and all these wonderful stores right at our fingertips now instead of having to go clear down to Clarendon. We didn't live over there but we loved it and would go down there for lunch and we loved it. Anyway, Arthur Godfrey said on the radio one time that he had had a chance to buy a little land there near Washington, D.C., it was a little area called Buffalo Hills or Buffalo Corners (Dave interjected, Buffalo Hills), it was Buffalo Hills and it was where seven country roads came together, a little nothing place around the area there and out in the country. He said I passed it up because I didn't think it was worth anything, and he said now it is Seven Corners and I could have really made it big.

Mia: That's for sure.

Vivian: Seven Corners you know has been bypassed by a lot of big shopping centers now, but I still like that best. (Dave interjects and he and Vivian have a brief exchange.) It had so many different stores that you really used.

Dave: So you went to Clarendon (Vivian says yes) for a lot of shopping, Alexandria for shopping and of course downtown we went to Washington, D.C. It was only about 18 minutes away if you did not have a lot of interruptions.

Vivian: And another thing another woman and I discovered which is really not in the Providence District but is how we had to branch outside of our area. She discovered a Co-Op grocery store over in Alexandria someplace and in the corner of the store were these lovely little imports, and little Teak things and little things from Denmark and Scandinavian countries and we would drive over there and I still have a pair of teak candlesticks that I got over there and that was the beginning of the Scan Department Stores. One of the men who use to live in our neighborhood, we lived in Annandale before, (Mia says Bob) Bob Gallo helped get that going they had the idea of having a direct import store and Scan was one of my favorite haunts too and a lot of the people around this area until recently when Scan – Scan is no longer with us in fact Loehmann's when Loehmann's came to this area that was a real addition because there were so many stores there.

And I'm still and my friends are also all grieving the change in the shopping patterns around this area because there were a linen store and the little book store that you could browse in and get to know them, the man behind the counter or the woman. They had so many stores there that were just easy to go and those are all changed and we still mourn those because we have to go to the big shopping centers now.

Mia: Talk about the change in the traffic around here.

Vivian: Oh my golly! Well I don't like to drive much anymore.

Dave: The only way you could get downtown, you had to go 50, that was the way to go. I worked on Constitution Avenue in the main Navy Complex down there and we had a car pool from Holmes Run Acres, and every day we would, actually there were several car pools in the area and they'd all troop downtown and it was quite easy except when you got snow. Once I got stuck downtown and didn't even get home but by and large we'd put on chains and we did everything it took to get out of here and get to work.

Vivian: But Shirley Highway was built and that was a real plus, but now we are back to using Rt. 50 to get downtown because it is often faster.

Dave: Yes we'd change routes every so often, depending on the situation. (Mia says right, right.)

Mia: Well there are a lot more choices on how to get downtown now.

Dave: Yeah, yeah, right.

Vivian: That's one of the big differences, there are so many choices today and I think that was one of the things everything was so much more limited, but in some ways it was easier because the choices you had were usually good quality choices so I think I liked it better when there weren't quite so many choices, but I guess that's my age showing.

Mia: You know when the telephone rang while we were talking earlier I thought that I would like to ask you about the telephone here in the neighborhood when you first moved here.

Vivian: We don't remember that was before us.

Dave: Well it was a single pay phone that was set up there that's the only thing the first

Vivian: But that was before us by a couple of years, we came in 1954 but 1951 it was.

Dave: But Sarah Lahr may remember that – I don't know.

Mia: By the time you got here in 1954 they had actual phone lines in?

Vivian: They had phones but they weren't dial phones and they were party lines so you had somebody else on your lines and it wasn't dial, or you asked an operator I can't remember. But it was numbers like, JE-2-5095 I think that was our number (Dave agreeing in background). Jefferson and people could listen in on your conversations. If you tried to get a one-party line it cost a little more.

Dave: Yeah, yeah, they didn't have the trunk lines to support that.

Vivian: I think that was your Christmas gift to the family when you got a one-party line or something.

Mia: I bet the family liked that at the time.

Vivian: Yes because people would listen in to them.

Mia: What about you mentioned this missile base in Annandale?

Vivian: During the Cold War Years, and we came in the 1950's – it really was sort of scary here because everything you hid the big sirens, they'd test the sirens and you could hear the sirens blow and the children had to go to school. They had to

carry all their supplies to school and on the way to Annandale I'll let Dave tell about the

Dave: There was a Nike Battery is what I remember and it was in the cut through as you went down Annandale Road and then to the little white church over on the right side there opposite that church that's been built (Vivian – new church yeah) was a site (Vivian - was an open field) in the open fields and they had a big bunker sort of thing. And they dug holes in the ground and there was a Nike Missile site sitting there. (Mia – wow) So that was there for a while and I think there was another; well they were spotted all around the Washington area so that was the closest one we had though.

Mia: And during the Cold War and the Cuban Crises weren't you involved in Civil Defense things Dave?

Vivian: Oh yeah.

Dave: I think she was more than we were (Vivian – they were at work) because there were school things. I mean we were it was our game in the Navy. So I don't remember a lot about changing procedures or anything, it never got to that. But it was (Vivian – I think it was more the women) I mean when the ships were bearing down on - the Russian ships were bearing down on Cuba.

Vivian: It was more the women I think then the men were in this because they were home and the first thing I did when I came here was take a first aid course because they were telling everybody to take a first aid course. And I remember Pete Anna(?) was always the victim because she was the smallest one and easiest one to carry.

Mia: Who sponsored the First Aid Course?

Vivian: It was probably the Civil Defense, they had a whole organization of Civil Defense, it might have been Red Cross but it was working with Civil Defense. And they had this siren, I think there was a siren at Woodburn School and there was a

woman Lynn Bilgra who was the Civil Defense Captain, Coordinator for the whole area here and it was kind of scary but you sort of -

Dave: And there was a place in their house where people would go and I think there were a couple of houses that where they had very specific almost bunker type situations.

Vivian: And I remember the Cuban Crises because Dave went out – that was probably the tensest time I have ever seen here isn't it- that's not Providence related but everybody that lived here felt this.

Mia: Yes, it affected everybody around here too.

Vivian: Yes and Dave went out that door that morning and said "well, we have had a good life". (Mia – oh great) And I was taking a pottery course, we didn't have a recreation department so the neighbors taught classes in their homes and one of them was a professional potter had us in there slamming clay that day which helped relieve some of the tension as the Russian and U.S. ships were bearing down on each other and you didn't know what was going to happen. And that was the week that my mother chose to come to Washington and bring my aunts for a visit and we did site seeing that week. We went downtown, and I remember we went through the White House but you had - they searched our bags - there was none of that done then so searching our purse at that time was quite a shock. But we went to Arlington Cemetery and I still remember we saw a Japanese man with a camera and I my aunt said "huh, those people I am surprised they let them in here", she was still thinking about World War II and I was worrying about World War III. And so that was a very tense period. Dave do you know any more about it?

Dave: No, it was you just watched – I mean you just survived it.

Vivian: There were a lot of issues through the years that I think were typical of the area. I think one in particular it was our neighbor but I am sure when it was all over, it was unleashed dogs and this was life before the dog leash laws and I

am sure a lot of neighborhoods had problems. And I don't think the problems ever go away even with leashes; you still have people who are unhappy with dogs here and there.

And saving the woods, as we tried to save the spaces around the whole area around here. There was always had a campaign to save the woods. The Child's Tract is in this area and we....

Dave: It was totally undeveloped then, (Vivian – yeah, it was just solid woods) all around the four sectors that were around Rt. 50 and the Beltway. The Beltway wasn't there of course, but we course the homesteaders moved to tried to get a border (Vivian – buffer) a buffer zone on the next end of Child's Tract and they said well I can sell you one piece of property and you will have to do all the subdividing and all of that (Vivian – buy the whole thing) but we could never get anybody to agree to that but some people could but because it was going to cost about \$1,500 per person, per family.

Mia: Which was a lot of money back then.

Vivian: Yeah, and you couldn't get 100% agreement on that so they lost the land. But, so, and there was always resistance to development around here. Mobile Oil came, no it wasn't (Mia and Dave – Exxon Mobil) Exxon came and people tried to protest that and they tried to protest all a lot of the development.

Dave: Exxon has been a fairly good neighbor. (Vivian – yeah)

Mia: Well they did a good job of developing; (Vivian and Dave – yeah they did) in terms of leaving a lot of green.

Vivian: Only green space left there and that is how it all looked originally.

There's no place to swim and that was another thing. There were no recreation facilities in the County when we came here it was really quite rural. Arlington was much more developed than Fairfax County was so this neighborhood was

particularly active in that. Some of the military men, and I always marveled at that, helped get organized the first swimming pool in the County and I am sure somebody else can tell you more details about how that happened. And there have been others who followed that example in the County who came up with their recreation. But before them as I said neighbors taught neighbors and we had a ballet class in the school for a lot of the little girls. And the mothers took some lessons too for a while and when they had us running down the room and trying and that is when we gave up, but it was fun for a while.

Mia: So basically your recreational activities, your social activities were basically neighbors?

Vivian and Dave: Yes.

Mia: There were not all of these organized recreational centers and such. There were a lot of parks around or have they developed as you been here.

Dave: Well, I can speak to that a little bit cause I was on the Civic Association Board then. Even before our own Luria Park was developed I was working with a Mr. Watts of the County Park Authority and we remember there was just a whole bunch of dirt that had been dumped down there. Sort of I guess probably it was a wet area and they were but they dumped it and left it so he came in with his bulldozer and leveled it and I remember them getting stuck because it was so wet. We went through another series with Louise Orr, I remember one person but there were others, in getting a tot land, the first tot land where it was located, and we tried to put plants and trees as a buffer there between the first houses and the tot land but most of them died. I think there is (Vivian – under hills) a couple of them left. But so we, but I did a study very plebian study on the amount of open space that London had, I remember and I was looking around Washington to see what we had done and we of course we were filling all the open spaces that we could with housing and other developments. Eventually the County got busy and when people were about to leave they got them to donate their property or they bought pieces of it and so forth so we that's how they managed

to get some of this open land that we have today. It took a lot of work.

Vivian: The County Park Authority started I think the year before our Civic Association did and this was the first community park where the community collaborated and worked with the park to build their own neighborhood park. It doesn't belong to us but it is right in the neighborhood so it's used mostly by us.

Vivian: I want to go back to Annandale there were two stores that I wanted to mention. There was a library the library system was pretty primitive at that time. And there was a little tiny little library in Annandale and I don't know if anybody else remembers it. When you go down to I am trying to remember the street, you go down to Annandale Road and you cut through toward where the bank or Safeway and florist there, on that corner across from the laundry – what is the name of that street? Maple? Anyway right in there were several little stores, there was an Ivy Trieses dress shop. There was one little dress shop in Annandale.

Mia: What was the name of it?

Vivian: Ivy Trieses, we use to have ads for it in our Holmes Runners of these ads. And they had really nice dresses so we use to linger in there on our way home from the grocery store sometimes and spend more money than we should have. But then beside it and just a little tiny hole in the wall area was the first library in Annandale that I recall anyhow. And it was very cozy and tiny and they had children's books. (Dave – really tiny) And Debbie use to say she wanted to go to the Larry Berry (library) mommy, and so we use to stop at the Larry Berry and then it moved to where is the next place?

Dave: Near Capone's music, I think for a little while.

Vivian: Yeah, I think it was. Then they eventually expanded the system. (Dave – they were serious about the Library system.) And the other thing was the Giant food store and that was a big deal when that came, actually Esther Peterson did such a great job of consumer communications. She'd tried a lot of new things and

customer information but for a while it tried several different formats; but the one that I liked best when our kids were growing - it was a one stop shopping center. Do you remember that at all?

Mia: No.

Vivian: They had dry goods; they had groceries, clothing, they had all sorts of things. You could just wander and buy outfits for all the family. You could buy sheets and I think I wrote the President a letter and told him I like his store because it was just like Thompson's General Store back in my hometown of Dalton, Ohio and I think he gave me a free coupon for a free Heidi Coffee Cake, but I liked that Giant store.

Mia: So what year did that open approximately?

Vivian: Let's see, our kids were in grade school so 1960's late 1950's, 1960's I'm not sure of the date, but I know they were in school when I was buying their underwear there.

Dave: That's probably about right yeah.

Mia: What about the middle school and the high school at the time that your kids were going to it.

Dave: Luther Jackson was black when we first came here. Yeah.

Vivian: And that was - we were here during the integration period. There were some hot issues then; because there was a lot of resistance. Virginia had this – you know they were not going to integrate and there was an SOS movement - I am sure somebody has talked to you about that SOS (Save Our Schools) because they were afraid that people would bail out of the public schools and start to go to private schools if the state subsidized them too much and you'd lose your public school system. But when they tried to integrate Luther Jackson which had been an African American School at that time, their high school, and there was resistance to that At one point the Principal who was a delightful man, everybody

really liked him a lot but there was a point where he thought about moving to our neighborhood and there was some that were resistance to that.

Mia: Oh dear!

Vivian: So that was that. And he did not feel comfortable I think and did not move here. Taylor Williams was his name and he was an excellent Principal and very well liked. And it went smoothly, but it was, I think it was hard on the kids who had to leave their school too, to have to leave because they had a loyalty. Integration was a good idea but I am sure they had mixed feelings because it was their own school.

Dave: Well there was a community over there along Gallows Road. For a long time was just a little cluster of houses and eventually a couple of churches.

Mia: Isn't that William's Town?

Dave: What?

Mia: Wasn't that called William's Town across from Keefer Jackson(?)?

Mia: No, please tell us about that.

Vivian: Yes, our Civic Association helped them at one time. (Mia – Yes) cause the Hospital (Mia – Keith was president then) and you've talked about that (Mia – no not yet tell us about that) Well they talked about that well the hospital - there was some water dumping or something going on or the drainage or something was affecting their neighborhood and they didn't know how to approach it to get action so our Civic Association, at that time, there was an article in the paper about that too and I have it in one of our scrapbooks – this article about how they helped them form a Civic Association so they could have a little more clout and stop the problem. You can be more specific with somebody else.

Mia: Well basically the county was not helping them because they were not organized and what our Civic Association did was to help them form a Civic

Association so that they had a means by which to get the county to give them the sewage services that they well deserved having.

Vivian: And another thing I always felt bad about and this has Fairfax County involved in this one too. When they decided they needed another school, and I think it was a Junior High School they were going to build on the corner of Gallows and Woodburn Road, I think isn't that where it is I think (Mia – yes) it's where the soccer field is now and the gardens which are delightful. But to do that they took that land and (Dave – condemned it) basically condemned it basically to build a school there (Dave – build a school there and then they never built the school) several African American families who had lived there, I think they got the land shortly after the Civil War and it was their land, their families were there; two beautiful big houses, you may remember them too. And he was a piano tuner, an excellent piano tuner. Did you ever use him?

Mia: No, no.

Dave: And there is a graveyard still there.

Vivian: Ruth Lahr, one of our friends who is an Oberlin graduate and really wanted the best used him all the time and his name was I think Floyd Collins and he was the nicest man. He had this great big broad friendly smile and his face just lit up when he talked to you. Everybody liked him so much. And it was his family's homes and we all felt so bad, I am sure they paid them a good price for it but compared to what it would be worth today (Dave – wow for those times) I mean certainly for those times but they really didn't want to move and they had to relocate to I think Shreve Road or someplace.

Mia: Did you say there is still a graveyard?

Dave: Yes, there is still a graveyard over there (Vivian – I think there is yes) way over in the back somewhere.

Vivian: I think they stipulated that should be left. I think that was it, but I'm not sure of all my facts.

Dave: I have never been to it, but I just know that there is supposed to be one back there.

Mia: And the pity of it is that they never built that school.

Vivian: They never built the school.

Dave: Never built the school.

Vivian: Chris Steve uses the garden plots regularly so he makes use of the facilities but it was still.

Dave: Occasionally there's well this is current goings on.

Mia: Well there's a lot of current goings on, (Dave – yeah) the development around us.

Dave: Yes, NOVA, the hospital, the mental and health clinics, and they are all in a well, I think there is finally there is movement now and the hospital is expanding southward and the mental health (Vivian - Woodburn) is moving over near Rt. 50.

Mia: The hot lanes on the Beltway.

Vivian: Yeah and for people (Dave – the hot lanes) who have lived here for a long time you feel like they have built this brand new thing and the ultimate has been reached and all of a sudden time has passed by and you don't realize it's already dated and crowded and it still seems just as it's new.

Mia: Yeah, well there have certainly been a lot of changes over the decade that we have all seen and it must be quite a shock sometimes when you came in 1954 and you look around and say whoa what happened to all the green around us?

Vivian: I sure it must be a bigger shock was a bigger shock to the people who were rural who lived here. And I know our houses when these contemporaries were built the locals people thought they looked like chicken coops.

Dave: Most of the trees are 50 years older now (Vivian – yeah that’s another problem we have now) and 50 years taller and now they are reached maturity and that’s another issue.

Mia: There were some farms around here

Dave: Yeah, the ah

Vivian: The old Dulin farm.

Mia: Which farm?

Dave: Dulin, Dulin.

Vivian: One that traced back to the Civil War days the Dulin farm where Providence Recreation Center is now and the kids use to love to go back there and play. And they would find Civil War relics back there sometimes. There was an old well that had been filled in with some of the things and they found things in there. They loved to explore the woods and the creeks and that’s one thing that kids can’t do freely anymore. And I think when we ask for kids for memories growing up in this area kids that are our children’s age and they all have remember playing in the creek and they remember burning leaves at night and in the afternoons and yeah. And you are smiling because you remember these too.

Mia: Oh yes.

Dave: There were stables did you mention that there was a stable.

Vivian: Yes, I guess it was still there.

Dave: When we were here there was a stables of course the Beltway wasn’t here.

Mia: Where were the stables?

Dave: It was where the Exxon station is now and yeah, I remember horses there.

Vivian: And neighbors said sometimes the horses would wander cross the street and they'd see a horse looking in their window.

Mia: Oh, really?

Dave: Of course because there was no Beltway so it was all just back and forth.

Vivian: And people would go and ride there and somebody said that once they took them for a sleigh ride in the winter one time but that was before us a couple of years before us.

Mia: Well we have covered a lot of ground and I thank you both very much. If you think of any other, you know, things that you think would be an addition to the history of Providence District when they are putting all of these antidotes, and memories and history together let me know and we can continue.

Vivian: I guess we still like it here or we wouldn't be here.

Mia: Exactly.

Vivian: And our children, we have one daughter who moved in six doors from us and another daughter that is maybe interested in buying a house here too and my son is with us right now so we have a lot of togetherness here yet. So, even though it is a transient County there is a sense of stability too, at least there is in our neighborhood.

Dave: A number of families are back here.

Vivian: Second generation.

Dave: Yes, second generation. Yes.

Vivian: I don't know how prevalent that is elsewhere; maybe that will come out in the history.

Mia: How many second generation families do you think we have in our neighborhood now? I think we must be up to 10 or 12.

Vivian: I think so too yes.

Dave: Yeah, I think that's it, yeah.

Vivian: Maybe some we don't know about.

Dave: I would guess that too. Yes, no less.

Mia: Well thank you ever so much, I have enjoyed it as always. (Vivian – okay)
And as I said if there are any other stories you can think of

Vivian: And thank you for doing this.

Mia: My pleasure.